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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/358,177	07/20/1999	YI-QUN LI	SPIN98-01PA	1212

21005 7590 05/03/2002

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EXAMINER

PATIDAR, JAY M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2862	

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)
09/358,177	LI ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit
Jay M. Patidar	2862

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 October 2001 .

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 6-20 and 24 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 6-20 and 24 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ .
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6) Other:

1. This communication is in response to applicants response filed on October 4, 2001.
2. Claims 21 and 23 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 13. The traversal is on the ground(s) that groups I and III do not represent the distinct inventions. This is not found persuasive because the particulars as set forth in group III is not required to be searched for group I.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-20,24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2188157.

'157 discloses a magnetic field sensor having a multilayered material wherein a piezoelectric material is sandwiched between magnetostrictive layers (Note figure 1, Col. 1, lines 61+; Col. 2, lines 66-124). '157 does not specifically teach the use of this sensor device for rotary movement detection, current measurement, however, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a magnetic field sensing device for any intended purpose, since it has been held to be within the general skill of an artisan in the art to use such sensor on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design selection. It is notoriously known in the magnetic field art to use a magnetic field sensing device to measure the rotational position of the encoder that changes the strength of magnetic field applied to the sensing device. Furthermore, this feature in the claims is considered a statement of an intended use and lends no patentable weight to the claims. The use of combination of different layers e.g. magnetostrictive layer between piezoelectric layers or vice versa would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art. The shape of the piezoelectric material/layer (claim 18) is considered a matter of design selection. The ferrite material for magnetostrictive layer is old and known in the art.

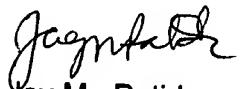
As to claim 12, it is clear from the disclosure of both references that the sensitivity of the sensor is dependent on the area of the layers.

As to claim 13, supporting the sensor as a cantilever is considered a matter of design selection since it has been held that the provision of adjustability/suitability, where needed, involves only routine skill in the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jay M. Patidar whose telephone number is 703-308-6723. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thur 7:00-5:30.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-0956.


Jay M. Patidar
Primary Examiner
Tech Center 2862
May 1, 2002